

# SHAW & CLARK

## SEWING MACHINE COMPANY,

BIDDEFORD, MAINE

FIG. 1.



FIG. 2.

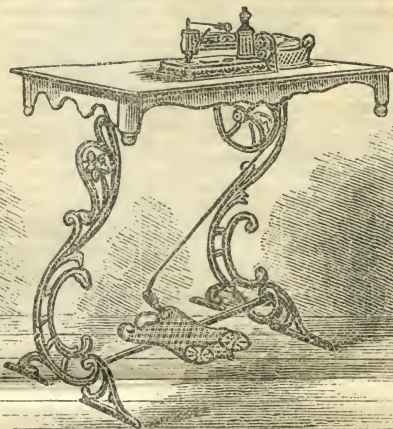
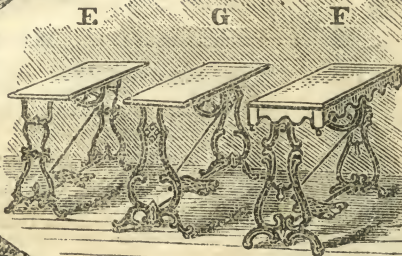


FIG. 3.

FIG. 4.

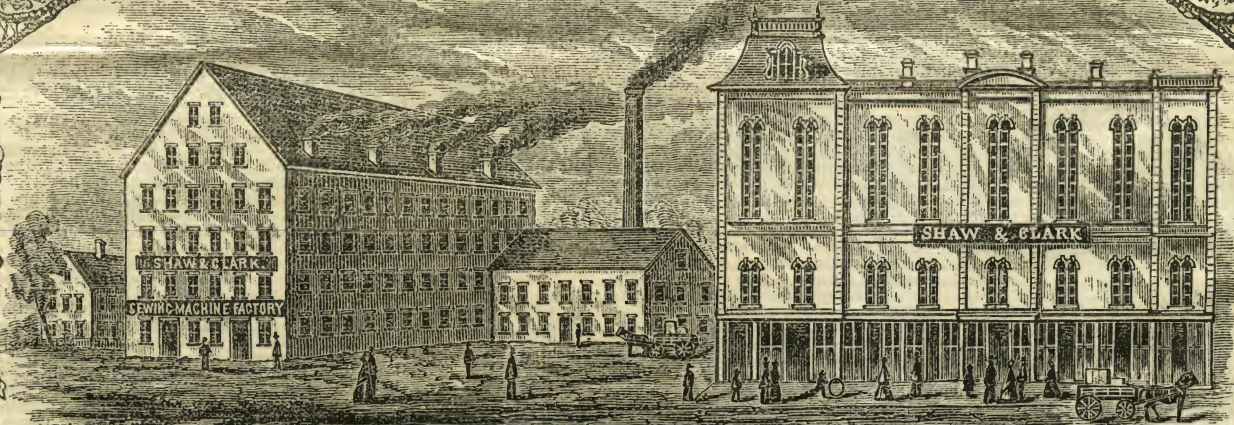
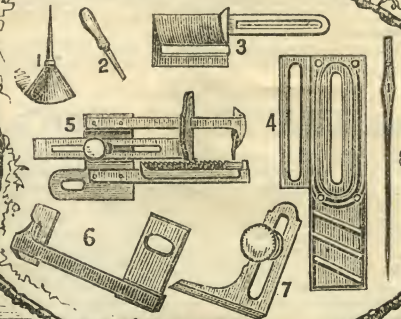
FIG. 5.



MANUFACTURED BY  
SHAW & CLARK  
BIDDEFORD, MAINE.  
PATENTED

SEP. 10. 1846	DEC. 19. 1854
MAY. 8. 1849	NOV. 4. 1856
NOV. 12. 1850	MAR. 9. 1858
AUG. 12. 1851	AUG. 13. 1861
MAY. 30. 1854	FEB. 16. 1864

LICENSED BY  
HOWE, WHEELER & WILSON.  
GROVER & BAKER. SINGER.  
AND  
BACHELDER.





Patented in the United States, England, France and Germany.

There are two classes of inventions, those of one being the bold conception of a single mind, while those of the other are the product of a long series of suggestions by different intellects. The Sewing Machine belongs to the latter class. A few years ago, nothing could have appeared more impossible than to sew by machines, and it has been most truthfully said, that the invention of the Sewing Machine marks one of the most important errors in the history of the world, and indeed, when considered in the light of the influence it has upon the social well-being of the masses, it would be difficult to conceive of an invention of more importance. Although for more than twenty years past, the best inventive talent of the age has been constantly devoted to the subject, and many important improvements have been made, the history of invention as it relates to Sewing Mechanism is properly divided by but six principal epochs. The first is the invention of Howe, made in 1846, which consisted of the combination in one Machine of an eye-pointed needle and shuttle, and was the great foundation of all Sewing Machines. The next is that of Bachelder in 1849, which after Howe's, is the most important, for notwithstanding that Howe made the combination of a needle and shuttle, his original machine was so defective in other respects as to be of but little practical utility, although it has since been improved and now stands second to no high price machine in the market at the present day. Bachelder's invention consisted in the use of a bed-piece or table, so arranged as to support the cloth in a level or horizontal position; a perpendicular acting needle; a pressure pad or spring bearing on the upper side of the cloth, and a continuous discharging feed, or mechanism, which operated continuously to feed the cloth along one stitch at a time, so as to sew curved or straight seams of any required length without being obliged to remove the cloth from the machine. When the fact is taken into consideration, that prior to Bachelder's invention, the cloth in all Sewing Machines had to be attached or basted to a plate or bar, and suspended in a *perpendicular* position on the side of the machine, the needle being so arranged as to work *horizontally* or *sideways*, and that the cloth could be fed along only the length of the plate to which it was attached without cutting the thread and taking it out of the machine, the vast importance of his invention will be understood and appreciated. In fact, Bachelder made the first Sewing Machine proper, according to the modern signification of the term, ever constructed, and his patent granted in 1849, and since extended and twice re-issued by Government, now covers nearly all the Sewing Machines at present manufactured. The next most important improvement is that of Wilson, (of the well-known Wheeler & Wilson Sewing Machine Co., New York) in 1850, by which the feed mechanism of the earlier machines was so improved as to render them applicable to a greater range of work, and in many respects his invention, when taken in connection with those since made, may be considered of equal value with any which preceded it. The next was that of Grover & Baker in 1851, who invented, among other valuable improvements, an entirely new stitch, now the distinguishing feature of the popular Grover & Baker machines; and the next that of Singer, also in 1851, who invented the system of tensions used to control the needle threads, also many other important improvements, and laid the foundation of the celebrated Singer machines. Howe, Bachelder, Wilson, Grover & Baker, and Singer gave to the world the great elementary principles found in all modern Sewing Machines of importance, and although particular machines have become distinguished by the contributions of others, many of which are valuable, still they are all founded on and embody one or more of the machines of these inventors. The state of the art of Sewing by machinery as presented after the invention of Singer was as follows:—The fundamental principles had been discovered, the foundation upon which all Sewing Machines are built had been laid, and sewing by machines had become an established fact, but the machines themselves were a mass of intricate and costly mechanism, being altogether too complicated to be understood by persons of ordinary mechanical abilities, while the prices at which they were sold placed them entirely beyond the reach of all those who stood most in need of the benefits to be derived from their use. The next and last of the six most important improvements in Sewing Machines is now universally acknowledged to be our own, which consists in inventing and producing the first and only cheap machine capable of doing the same work of the high priced ones. For nearly ten years past, we have brought to bear upon this one object, the best inventive talent of both Europe and America, the result being a Sewing Machine, which for novelty, simplicity, reliability and durability, can never be surpassed if it is ever equalled. The importance of the invention which should first give to the world the benefit of such a machine has long been acknowledged, and hence our improvement is very justly considered of equal importance with any ever made. As the introduction of our machines dates a new era in Sewing Mechanism, we have adopted entirely original and unique designs in their manufacture, using our patterns, to get up a poor machine. The Shaw & Clark Family Sewing Machine being mistaken for ours, as well as to prevent other parties from imitating, being almost entirely unlike all others, both in design and principle. Besides being patented in England, France and Germany, they are secured by ten different patents in the United States, and fully licensed under the patents of Howe, Bachelder, Wilson, Grover & Baker, and Singer & Co., our family purposes, and in fact the only one which allows the garment to be thoroughly washed and elastic lock stitch, now acknowledged to be the best for all family purposes, and in fact the only one which allows the machine is running; they are not ironed without breaking. No part of them requires removal to be oiled; the length of the stitches can be changed while the machine is running; they are not injured by being run backwards; they use thread, linen or silk, directly from the original spools without rewinding or oiling; they take stitches from one fifth of an inch up to nearly one-half an inch in length; they work with equal facility on the finest Swiss muslin, or through several thicknesses of woolen cloth, and by a peculiarity of their mechanism much shorter stitches can be sewed with them than it is possible to sew on nearly any other machine. They Hem, Fell, Stitch, Bind, Embroider, Quilt, Tuck, Braid, Gauge, Plait, &c. In fact their capacity for work is even greater than that of most of the high price machines, while a child or person who never saw a sewing machine of any kind can learn to run them in a few minutes, their wonderful simplicity rendering instructions for using them almost entirely superfluous. All of our machines are acknowledged to be more beautifully ornamented and higher finished than any others in the world, being most elaborately embellished with gold scroll work, landscapes, and flowers, which, with the silver plate and polished steel work of the machine, produces an indescribably beautiful effect.

SHAW & CLARK, Biddeford, Maine.

We are again called upon to caution all our Agents, as well as others, to have nothing whatsoever to do with any cheap Machine not made by us. Many persons who have sold or used cheap Sewing Machines have done so innocently, not knowing their danger until they were arrested by the United States Marshal, and their property taken. But hereafter there is no excuse for any such ignorance.

and their property taken. But hereafter there is no excuse for any such ignorance. Any person who makes, sells or uses a Sewing Machine which infringes any patent herein mentioned, is liable to imprisonment and one hundred

Persons who have sold or used such machines, and their property taken. But hereafter, there is no excuse for any such ignorance.

Any person who either makes, sells or uses a Sewing Machine which infringes any patent herein mentioned, is liable to imprisonment and one hundred dollars fine for each machine so made, sold or used. The Agent who sells, and the person who uses, are just as liable as the manufacturer. What are known as cheap machines, are those which are sold for less than forty dollars each, and no such machines can be made which are not covered by the patents of Howe, Bacheider, Wheeler & Wilson, Grover & Baker, Singer & Co., and Shaw & Clark, and unless such machines, no matter what kind they are, are fully licensed by all the above parties, they infringe, and all persons having anything to do with them are liable. We make the *only* cheap machines made in the United States which are or can be fully licensed as above; and *all* other cheap machines, no matter by whom made or of what kind they are, if sold for less than forty dollars each, are infringements. For the protection of our Agents, and also of families buying machines to use, every genuine licensed cheap machine hereafter made, will have a round silver plated patent plate on it, exactly such as is shown at Fig. 4, in the engraving on this circular, and will have the names of Shaw & Clark on the plate as manufacturers, and the names of *all* the other parties heretofore mentioned as licensors; and also the dates of the ten patents by which our machines are covered. The words "Shaw & Clark, Biddeford, Maine," will also be cast in the iron work of each machine. As a still further protection, every machine we make is numbered, and a record of the number, the date of sale, and the name of the person to whom the machine is sold, is kept by our book-keepers, and with each machine we furnish an engraved guarantee signed by Shaw & Clark, and filled out with the number which is on the machine it guarantees. This guarantee has on one end a *fac-simile* engraving of the silver-plated patent plate on the machine, like that shown in Fig. 4, in our circular; and our Agents always deliver the purchaser the *proper* guarantee which goes with the machine at the same time the machine is delivered.

It is because a cheap Sewing Machine, made by others is patented, that it can be no infringement of our rights, but this

Many have been told and really think that because a cheap Sewing Machine made by others is patented, that it can be no infringement of our rights, but this is no so. A dozen patents may be obtained for little trifling things about a Sewing Machine, and still it may be impossible to build such a machine, or complete machine, without infringing half a dozen other indispensable patents which existed before. If you will examine the *fac simile* of our patent of 1846 (Fig. 4), you will see that it covers all the patents run from 1846 to 1864, and *it is these old patents which cover all Sewing Machines.* The 1846, 1849, 1850, and 1851 patents, have all been extended by Government, and they as well as the others, are now all in full force. The ten patents mentioned above, were owned by us and by the large Sewing Machine Companies, and are such that No machine can possibly be built without using one or more of them, and if used, no matter what kind it is; and unless a cheap machine is fully licensed under ALL of these patents the person making, selling, or using it is liable to prosecution, arrest and imprisonment.

The first patent was granted in 1846, and the last in 1864. If the cloth is supported in the machine in a

If a machine uses a NEEDLE WITH THE EYE IN THE POINT, it must be licensed under the Howe patent of 1846; if the cloth is supported in the machine in a HORIZONTAL position, and is moved or fed along ONE STITCH AT A TIME, the machine must be licensed under the Bachelor patent of 1849; if the cloth is moved or moved along through the machine by means of a ROUGH SURFACE FEED, no matter whether it operates on the upper or under side of the cloth, the machine must be licensed under the Wilson (of N. York) patent of 1850; if the machine uses a double looping apparatus, then it must be licensed under the Grover & Baker patent of 1851; if the machine uses a tension on the spool, or puts a tension on the threads, it must be licensed under the Singer patents; if it is a cheap machine, that is, less than \$40.00, it must be licensed under several of our patents, without which no cheap machine can ever be made that will sew a single stitch. ALL the above patents are not only in full force, but they have all been sustained by the United States Court, the highest tribunal in the land, and INFRINGEMENTS issued against all found infringing them, and the penalty against all found disobeying these injunctions, is not only loss of property, but IMPRISONMENT. Even the most inexperienced person can see at a glance, that no Sewing Machine of any kind can be made which will not come under the 1846, 1849, and 1850 patents, to say nothing of the others, and consequently it is always necessary that all machines must be licensed under them, (and if less than \$40.00 they must be licensed under the others also,) or they are infringements. Therefore, unless a cheap Sewing Machine is made by us, no matter what kind it is, and has a silver-plated patent plate on it, with our name on the plate as manufacturers, and the other names and dates on it the same as shown in Fig. 4, and also has the words "Shaw & Clark, Biddeford, Maine," cast in the iron work of the machine, and is accompanied by an engraved guarantee signed by Shaw & Clark, it is an infringement, and every person selling or using such a machine is liable: and the owners of the patents herein mentioned are determined to prosecute all such to the extent of the law. But all cheap machines which have our names and place of business cast in the iron work, and have our patent plate execute all such to the extent of the law. But all cheap machines can be made and used with safety. ~~See~~ No guarantee of any kind which any other party or person

**SPECIAL NOTICE.**—In order that infringers may be prosecuted and stopped, our agents and others are requested to keep us informed of all the cheap Sewing Machines being made, sold or used in their vicinity, or elsewhere, by sending us the circulars respecting them, and giving a description of the machine, its price, and especially the name and residence of the persons who sold it, and that of the manufacturers.

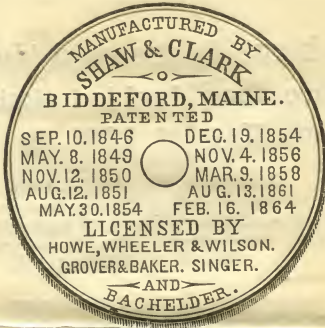
**SHAW & CLARK, Biddeford, Me.**

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1864, by Shaw & Clark, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of Maine.



Fig. 4.

[Fac Simile of Silver-plated Patent Plate.]



# Shaw & Clark Sewing Machine Co.

PRINCIPAL OFFICE & MANUFACTORY  
BIDDEFORD, MAINE.

CHARTERED FEB. 11th, 1865.

CAPITAL \$300,000.

Fig. 6.

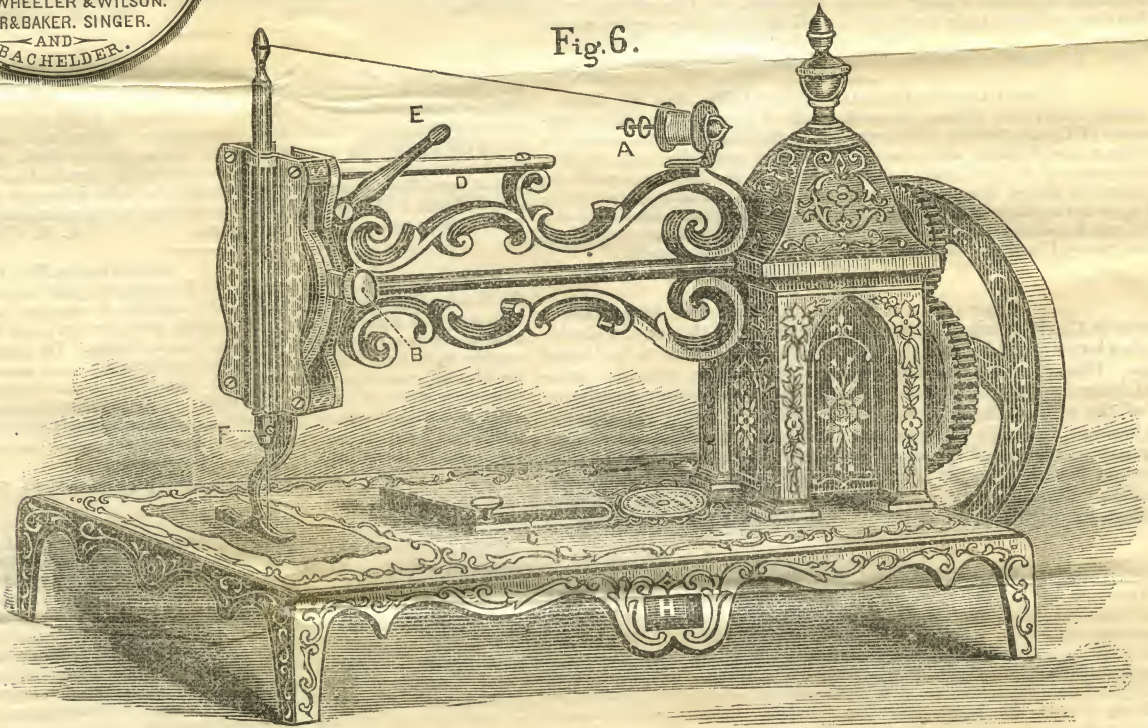
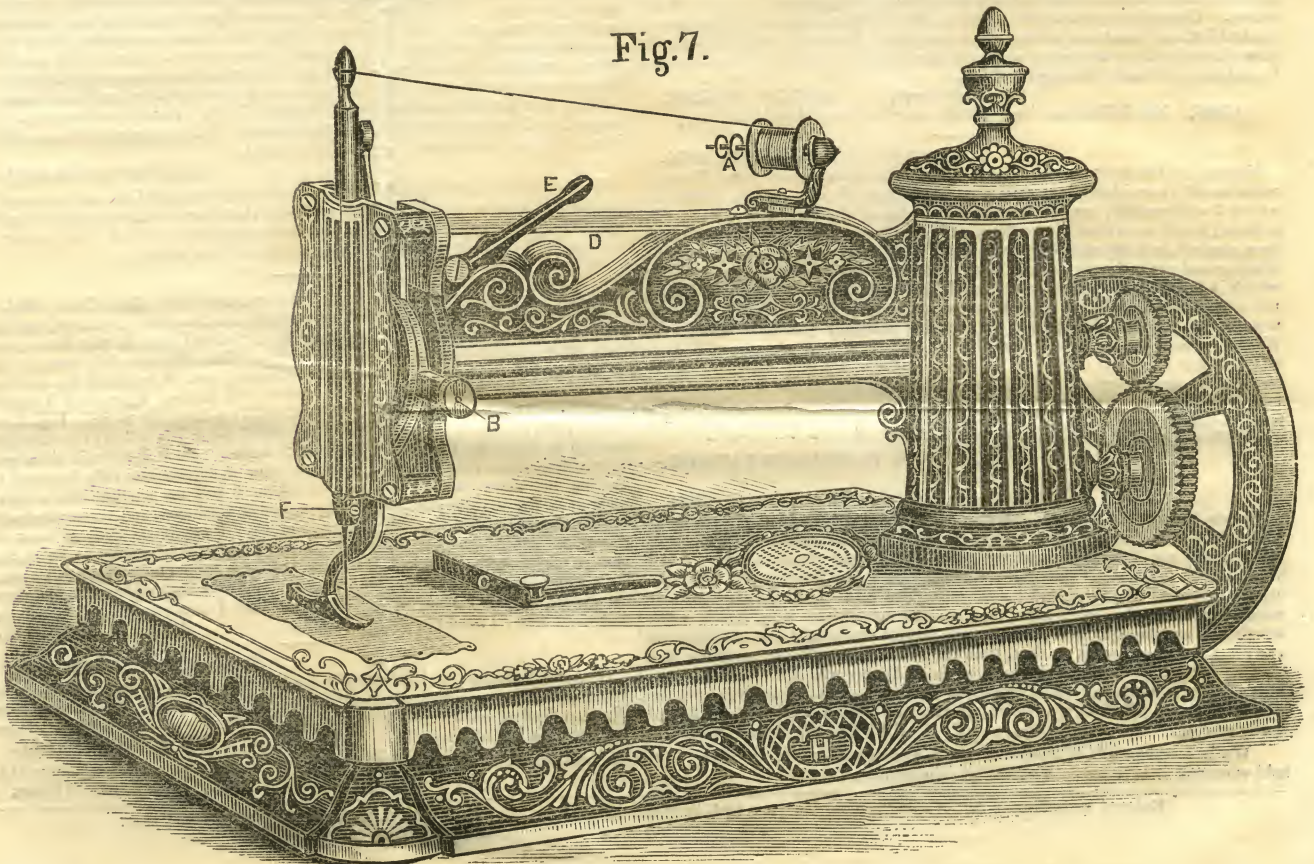


Fig. 7.





# Testimonials in favor of Shaw & Clark's Family Sewing Machine.

Since the following certificates were given we have increased the size and adopted improvements in our machines which have more than doubled their value to the user. Our new styles of improved machines came out May 1st, 1865.

MAYOR'S OFFICE, Biddeford, Maine, Oct. 10, 1864.

This may certify, that Messrs. SHAW & CLARK are well known and responsible citizens of this city, where they have resided and done business for twelve years past. They have recently completed an extensive Factory for manufacturing their new Family Sewing Machines, and I do not hesitate to say that they will send their machines to all from whom they receive pay for the same.

JOHN Q. ADAMS, Mayor of Biddeford.

[1865. Mr. Shaw, of the firm of Shaw & Clark, is the present Mayor.]

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE, Biddeford, Me., Oct. 8th, 1864.

I hereby certify that Messrs. Shaw & Clark of this city are large manufacturers of Family Sewing Machines, and have recently erected and put in operation a new Factory, which is one of the most extensive and complete establishments of its kind in the country. They are perfectly responsible for any amount of money they may receive for machines, and all persons can depend upon having their orders filled. I have one of their machines in my own family, and I consider it entirely superior in style, finish, and certainty of operation, to any I have ever seen sold for less than fifty dollars each.

F. D. EDGERLY, City Clerk.

POST OFFICE, Biddeford, Maine, Oct. 20th, 1864.

Shaw & Clark, Sewing Machine manufacturers, of this city, undoubtedly do a larger postal business than any single person or firm in the United States. This city contains ten thousand inhabitants, and the number of letters sent to and received from their agents amounts to nearly one half of the whole business of the office. Notwithstanding the extent of their business, it is with pleasure that I testify to the uniform care, regularity and promptness of the above gentlemen, as well as their numerous clerks and book-keepers, in all their dealings with their agents through his office. I have never known an instance of the final loss of money sent them for machines.

C. F. COWAN, Postmaster.

COLCHESTER, Conn., Aug. 27th, 1864.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK, Biddeford, Me. Gentlemen: I have now on my books over one hundred and seventy-five orders for your machines which I have just obtained, and wish machines sent me to supply them as soon as possible. I have been selling for you now for nearly two years, and find that your machines continue to give good satisfaction and sell rapidly. Several cheap machines have been sold in this vicinity which have proved worthless, and which have injured my sales somewhat; but yours are much liked, and the more the people see of them the better my business grows. I shall soon put several agents into the field to assist me, and hope you will be prompt in supplying my orders. I have broken a looper stand of one of the machines which came in the last lot, and want you to send me a new one. I am well satisfied that you have the only cheap machines worthy of the attention of purchasers who want a good cheap Family Sewing Machine.

Very truly yours, HENRY MILLER.

[1865. Mr. Miller now buys \$1000 worth of machines at a time.]

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Sept. 19th, 1864.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK; Gents: On my way here from Western Pennsylvania to-day, I accidentally came across one of your Family Sewing Machines, which I will candidly say far surpasses anything of the kind I ever saw. To be brief, I will state that I have been selling a cheap machine, and that I have been stopped, and my customers who used them have been prosecuted for infringing and put to heavy costs. I see that yours is the only cheap machine which is licensed under the patents of Wheeler & Wilson, Grover & Baker, and others, and I therefore wish to secure an agency for it. Please write me at once, and direct to Pittsburgh, Pa., stating whether you have an agent in Western Pennsylvania or not, and give me your best terms to agents. I am satisfied that I can sell thousands of your machines if I can have the agency for some towns I know of. If you have any other kind of licensed machine, send me a cut of it. I want nothing to do with any machine not fully licensed by all the large machines, as I have been put to expense and trouble enough with selling cheap machines which infringe.

Truly yours, WM. F. STARKWEATHER.

GREAT FALLS, N. H., Aug. 5, 1864.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK; Gents: The Sewing Machine of your make which I have had in use in my family the past year I consider indispensable, and I would not dispose of it at any price could I not obtain another; but I have recently understood that you have built you a new Factory and are making a larger size Machine, and I wish to inquire how much larger your new machine is than the one I have, as I want to use one on very heavy work sometimes, and thought that perhaps your largest size might answer better on overcoats and such work as that, than the small one. Please write me and give me full particulars, and also your terms to Agents who get orders for you. Also state how much you would charge to exchange one of your large ones for mine. I cannot afford to pay much, as the one I have answers well for all family sewing.

Yours truly, J. S. HAYES, Hardware Dealer.

We have thousands of letters from our Agents and others speaking in the highest terms of our Machine, but the above show in what estimation it is held wherever it is in use. Address all communications to

RICHMOND, Me., April 3, 1865.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK; Gents: I have one of your Sewing Machines and it has proved the greatest blessing I ever had in my family. I want some more needles of different sizes for the fifty cents enclosed. Send by mail and direct to

Mrs. J. G. DENSMORE.

CROSSINGVILLE Pa., Feb. 10, 1865.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK; I have used your sample machine until I am satisfied that it is the best family sewing machine in existence. It did not take me over half a day to learn to do almost all kinds of sewing on it. I went out and in one evening took three orders. My partner and myself sent you \$150.50 the 6th inst. by express, but we did not think to state that we wanted two order books. Can you furnish me one hundred machines by the first of next May, and in four lots, the first lot to be delivered about the middle of March? I hope there will be no delay in filling our orders as we both want to keep at work.

Truly yours, A. K. GREENLEE.

BIDDEFORD, Me., Oct. 1, 1864.

MESSRS. SHAW & CLARK; Gents: In answer to your inquiries respecting the Sewing Machine, I will reply that I consider it superior to any machine with which I am acquainted, either high price or low, and I would not be without one in my family for fifty times its real value. Its great simplicity I consider to be one of its most important qualifications, as it is never out of order like other machines, and will work on anything in the shape of cloth which it has been required to sew, either thick or thin, without dropping a stitch. In fact it never drops stitches, which is one of the principal objections to all other machines I have ever seen. Wishing you much success in introducing your truly valuable invention, I remain

Truly yours, F. A. SMALL, Paymaster of Laconia Cotton Manuf'g Co.

PERTH, Canada West, July 11th, 1864.

Gents:—The machines ordered of you have arrived all in good order and condition, and all work well. I enclose a draft for a dozen more of each kind and a dozen Hemmers; also one hundred extra needles. Send them by the Grand Trunk Rail Road without delay as they are already sold and I want to deliver them as soon as possible. Send them to Brockville C. W. and invoice them at your wholesale price to save duty. All I ask is that you will continue to furnish me with machines as good as these and I can sell any quantity of them. Can you sell me tables and treadles any lower than you do to your agents there? I once sold machines for a concern in the States, but they were so rough looking and poorly made, and it took so long for them to fill my orders that I gave it up. I will give you the praise of getting up the first good cheap machine I ever saw. As a general thing all I have seen before have been dreadful miserable things, and not worth house room. One day I got nine orders, and I shall do better still as I go West where it is more thickly settled. Be sure and put in everything that goes with the machines, and write me as soon as you get this and direct to Belleville C. W. I shall be there in a day or two, as I am only stopping here temporarily. I hope there will be no delay in sending the machines. Respectfully Yours,

JACQUES MESNARD.

P. S. Send a good lot of Circulars; also an extra Oil Can, as one sent in the last lot was very leaky. You will see that the draft is payable in gold, which I believe will bring it right when the premium is added. If it is not, I will make it right in my next order, which will be soon.

HIGHLAND, Ind., Sept. 24th, 1864.

Gents: Last Saturday after writing you I heard from the machines, and got them the same day; so you will excuse me for what I said in that letter, as I thought I was humbugged out of my money. The Express left them at the wrong station, where they have hid a fortnight, and it was only by accident that I happened to hear where they were. As soon as I got them I started out, and have taken from four to twelve orders a day ever since. I go home to-morrow, and as soon as I get there shall send you a draft for machines enough to fill all my orders. I find that it makes a great difference about getting orders when people come to see that your machines are fully licensed by the big machines; as a good many to whom I sold the machine for which I used to be agent were sued and put to a good deal of cost, and threatened with imprisonment, which frightened a great many. I ought to have at least six dozen machines here now ready to deliver. I hope there will be no delay, and that is why I write beforehand, so that you may expect my order any moment for a large lot. Nearly everybody wants a Self Sewer, or Hemmer, or something else, so that I shall do well on them, and I shall order a lot with the machines when I send for them. Yours,

JOHN P. BARLOW.

CHICAGO, Ill., Sept. 27, 1864.

Gents: I have received the sample machines all right. Please inform me by return of mail your very lowest cash figures for one thousand of your machines (five hundred of each kind) delivered in this city as soon as possible. Have you an agent in California? Yours truly,

R. F. BRINTNALL.

SHAW & CLARK, Biddeford, Maine.